

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 IO-11

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R 270401Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9202

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, TH

SUBJECT: POL PRICES IN BANGKOK

REF: BANGKOK 4235

1. ESSO EXECUTIVES MET INCONCLUSIVELY WITH PROTESTING DEALERS
EVENING FEB 26 OVER FIRM'S ACTION EARLY IN DAY PASSING THREE-

STANG COST INCREASE TO DEALERS. ADDITIONAL SESSIONS PLANNED
FEB 27 AND THROUGH WEEKEND IN EFFORT REACH AMICABLE COMPROMISE.

2. CALTEX FEB 25 AGREED TO DEFER COST INCREASE TO DEALERS TO
MARCH 1 FROM ORIGINAL DATE OF FEB 1, AND HAS SCHEDULED WHAT
MANAGEING DIRECTOR TERMS "CRUNCH MEETING" WITH DEALERS FEB 27.
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS HAS REPORTED INCORRECTLY THAT CALTEX
HAS AGREED TO ABSORB THREE-STANG SHORTFALL.

3. PRESIDENT OF OIL TRADERS ASSN. CONTINUES TO ASSERT PUBLICLY
THAT RTG TOLD MARKETING FIRMS TO ABSORB THREE-STANG COST IN-
CREASE. (MARKETING FIRMS SAY GOVERNMENT LEFT TO EACH COMPANY
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DECISION ON RECOVERY OF THREE-STANG SHORTFALL.) THAI LANGUAGE

PRESS, FOLLOWING THIS LINE OF ARGUMENT, IS ACCUSING MARKETING
FIRMS OF "TRICKERY" AND "EXPLOTATION." SOME, INCLUDING
THAI RATH, ARE URGING GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL
OIL AUTHORITY TO PURCHASE, REFINER, AND MARKET CRUDE AND
POL PRODUCTS.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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